## Chaudry Mohammad Ashraf— A Fearless Khaksar Freedom Fighter

by

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Chaudry Mohammad Ashraf [also known as Ashraf sandoo] was born in 1916 in Rawalpindi. He joined the Khaksar Tehrik as a young man and mobilised active support for the organisation from Rawalpindi District.

He rose in the party cadre and participated actively in the movement against the British. He led a Khaksar squad from Punjab to Utter Perdesh to help Muslims who were being victimised by the Hindus. He fought against the administration in Ghaziabd where he was imprisoned for defying the British Government.

At the time of Partition he assisted the immigrants and provided assistance to a large number of refugees who had come from India. His services for protecting the lives of many are remembered by generations.

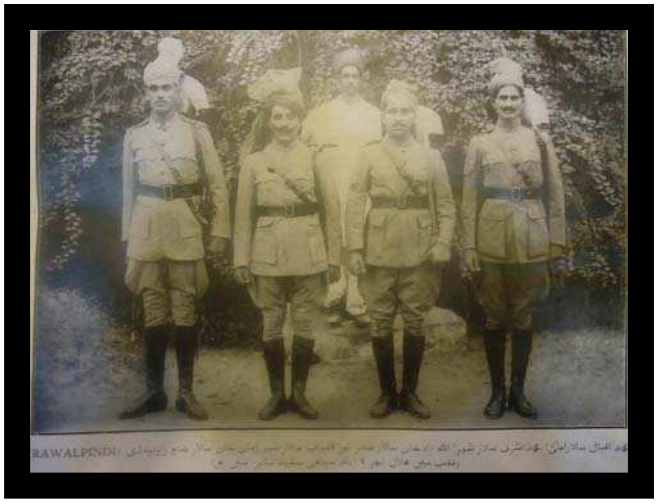

Photo: Right to Left: Muhammad Iqbal (Salar-e-Alah), Mohammad Ashraf (Salar-e-Shahr), Allah Dad Khan (Salar-e-Sadar) Sher Zaman Khan (Salar Rawalpindi District)

After creation of Pakistan he pursued his political career as a Khaksar and climbed the ladder of the party hierarchy. In the mid fifties he contested the

elections for MLA. During these elections, being a strong opposition candidate , he was imprisoned for a prolonged duration under the infamous EBDO Act by the government of the day.

He participated actively in the Khaksar cause and became a close associate of Allama Inayat Ullah Khan Al Mashriqi. Allama sahib was extremely fond of him and always stayed with him when visiting Rawalpindi ,although as per the Khaksar tradition he always paid for his food and lodging.

In the early sixties , Mohammad Ashraf was made responsible by Khaksar Tehrik to provide logistical support to the Kashmir movement. This movement was later transformed into an indigenous struggle.

Mohammad Ashraf was a leading figure of Rawalpindi who rose to the rank of Naib Quaid e Tehrik. He died with his boots on while marching in a Khaksar contingent on Eid Milad un Nabi in December 1983.

He left behind two sons. His elder son served with distinction in Pakistan Army and rose to the rank of lieutenant general.

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*Writer is the father of Chaudry Mohammad Ashraf.

*The above piece was emailed (January 16, 2008) to scholar & historian Nasim Yousaf by Lt. General (Retd.) Hamid Javaid.*

The article appeared in the book entitled, *Government of British India on Allama Mashraqi and Khaksar Tehreek (Movement): A Select Chronology; A descriptive timeline of the correspondence of the Secretary of State, Viceroy of India, Provincial Governors, and high officials, intelligence reports, and other events (Focal Period: 1930s and 40s) "* by Nasim Yousaf

Khaksar Bios:
http://www.allamamashraqi.com/khaksarbios.html